Richmond Football Club

33rd

ANNUAL REPORT

AND

BALANCE - SHEET

SEASON 1917.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at the Richmond CRICKET PAVILION on TUESDAY EVENING, MARCH 26, 1918, at 8 p.m.

F. G. Tudor, Esq., M.H.R. (President), will preside.

BUSINESS

1.—Annual Report and Balance Sheet.
2.—Election of Office-Bearers.
3.—Presentations.
4.—General.

LIEUTENANT HUGH JAMES

One of Our Boys at the Front.

Awarded the Military Cross for Gallantry.

Formerly Captain of Richmond Football Club.

THIRTY-THIRD

ANNUAL REPORT & BALANCE-SHEET

OF THE

RICHMOND FOOTBALL CLUB

To be presented to the Members at the Pavilion, Richmond Cricket Ground, on Tuesday, March 26, 1918, at 8 p.m.

Richmond, March 16, 1918.

To the Members of the Richmond Football Club.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

Your Committee, in presenting to you the thirty-third Annual Report and Balance Sheet for 1917, desire to congratulate you upon an improved financial position as compared with 1916, also upon an increase in membership, undoubtedly owing to the fact that six clubs were playing League football as compared with only four teams in the field the previous season.

PERFORMANCES OF OUR TEAM.

We regret to have to record that our list of matches won does not compare favorably with season 1916, but when we consider the many disadvantages against which our team battled so gamely all through the season, it will be admitted that, taking everything into consideration, we did very well indeed. At the start of the season your Committee found that no less than eight of the team who played so well for the "Yellow and Black" during 1916 would be unable to play, viz.:—Kearney, Eason, Marsham, Martini (all of Geelong), Thomas, Moffat, Harley and Bayliss. All big athletes and finished footballers, nearly half of our team had to be replaced, and players of the proficiency of those named are not to be found growing by the wayside these times. Still, the position had to be faced if we were to give our formidable rival League teams a "go." Your Committee at once got to work and, as a result of keen "scouting," we may fairly claim to have secured some real good players in Hislop, Gleeson, Rudd, Albress, Weatherill, Fehring, Smith, Fox, Davey, Heath and others, all of whom played in Richmond colors for the first time during last season, and it is natural to assume that with last year's experience to their credit they will be of great assistance to our side in the coming season. Our team played

some fine games during the season, and but for unfortunate accidents occurring to our players at critical portions of several games, our winning tally would undoubtedly be larger. In addition to many of our lads having to stand down through these mishaps, we were constantly changing our selected team at the last moment before entering the field, owing to those selected being, from some cause or other, unable in play. In connection with this matter, it may be mentioned that on only four occasions last season were we able to play the team chosen by the selectors. This is a record which is unique, and which will take some equalling in the annals of "hard luck." But it is all in the game and we look forward with the renewed hope that all of our good fortune is in front of us and that season 1918 will see the "Tigers" once again springing upward.

THE WAR.

When your Executive presented their last report we had great hopes that the great conflict of nations would have ended victoriously in our favor during 1917, and that Peace would have been reigning in triumph once more, but unfortunately our hopes have not been realised, and the combatants are still at death grips with each other on the various war fronts, but we have implicit faith in the valor of our brave soldiers, and, although our foes are fighting desperately, we are confident that the splendid courage and bulldog tenacity of the soldiers of the British Empire, that has been so often proved on many battlefields, will once again bring victory to our arms. That 1918 will see the close of this the greatest war of all times is the sincere, heartfelt desire of all.

OUR BOYS AT THE FRONT.

All of the brave lads of the Richmond Football Club at the front are, we are pleased to state, well at time of issuing report. "Checker" Hughes, "Darko" Danks, Alex. Eason, Tom Watson, Hughie James and others have all written to say they are well, and send "kind regards" to all their friends (and they are legion). Your Committee are very pleased to state that Hughie James has been awarded the Military Cross for "conspicuous gallantry in repairing a bridge under heavy fire and thereby setting an inspiriting example to his men." All of the Members of the R.F.C. will join with the Committee in complimenting Lieutenant James on his high honor in obtaining this award and in expressing their sincere desire to soon have the pleasure of seeing him with us again, accompanied by all the rest of our gallant lads. "Bill" Sheppard, of your Committee, who enlisted during last season, also writes to say he is well, and sends greeting to all of his friends. E. Hood, one of our promising young players of last season, has also enlisted, and has gone into camp. The total enlistment since war began of past and present players of the Richmond Football Club now totals (as far as can be ascertained) 43. Fresh names are constantly coming along to be registered, and that they will all return safely and speedily is the sincere prayer of every member and supporter of the Richmond Football Club. During the year E. Derrick, of our Club, has returned severely wounded in the leg. We all give him a hearty welcome back to our ranks and trust that he may soon recover his wonted health and strength.

FOOTBALL AND THE WAR.

What the Public Should Know—Interesting Statements and Figures.

Much has been said and written against football and the part football has played in connection with the war.

For the information of members and the public generally, your

Committee desire to place before you the following information and figures:—

Comparative Tables of Clubs' Membership and Revenue from All Sources.

Revenue, Season 1917, not included, as it is not known at time of going to press.

Clubs	Membership		Revenue	
	1914	1917	1914	1916
Carlton	4977	850	£2600	£864
Collingwood	4449	640	2145	612
Essendon	2151	——	1339	——
Fitzroy	3889	604	2210	724
Geelong	2640	300	2894	——
Melbourne	202	——	260	——
Richmond	2708	525	1484	585
South Melbourne	3184	550	2231	——
St. Kilda	4165	——	2260	——
Totals	28,365	3469	£17,423	£2785

Patriotic and charitable donations made by and through the Victorian Football League and its clubs since the beginning of the war:—

1914.—Australian Patriotic Fund, £1050; British Red Cross Society, £525; Belgian Relief Fund, £300; Travelling Kitchen Fund, £250; Y.M.C.A., £57 1/9; Australian Patriotic Fund, St. Kilda F.C., £5 5/-; Charities, £102 10/10. Total, £2289 17/7.

1915.—Australian Wounded Soldiers' Fund, £225 5/3; do., 10 per cent. reduction, in which ground managements shared, £252 10/6; Red Cross Fund, proceeds of St. Kilda v. North Melbourne, £254 13/3; Military Camp, Seymour, football material, £20; Belgian Relief Fund —per South Melbourne £140, Carlton v. Golden Point £76, St. Kilda v. Ballarat, £30; Charities, £94 4/11. Total £1094 13/11.

1916.—Lady Mayoress' Patriotic Fund, 250 footballs, £110 8/4; Returned Soldiers' Association, £185 10/3; Royal Australian Navy, 1st Families' Relief Fund, £170; Returned Soldiers' Association—Fitzroy £152 16/2, Richmond £90 10/-; Carlton £40, Collingwood £39 4/7, St. Kilda £4; Red Cross Fund, Carlton v. Collingwood at Ballarat, £80; State War Council, South Melbourne, £38 4/2; Charities (per League), £68 16/6; Charities (per League Clubs), £12 19/-. Total, £992 9/-.

Grand totals for the three seasons mentioned, £4377 0/6.

In addition to the above, sums were obtained from the public who attended matches by collections taken up for various patriotic and charitable funds. Many entertainments were held in which the football clubs co-operated, and patriotic funds were swelled by such efforts.

Number of Matches Played—In Season 1914, 90; in Season 1917, 45.

Players have enlisted from the six League Clubs which played during Season 1917 as follows:—Carlton, 22; Collingwood, 16; Fitzroy, 32; Geelong, 14; Richmond, 31; South Melbourne, 18. Total, 133.

A conference between the State War Council and the Victorian Football League was held on June 6, 1917, in connection with the movement for restricting sport during the war. The conditions under which football was being played were fully set out at this conference, with the result that no curtailment of our winter game was deemed necessary at that juncture.

OBITUARY.

We regret to have to announce the death at the front of L. Lee, one of our former players. "Leggo" Lee, as he was generally known, was a fine tall athletic young fellow, respected and esteemed by all. A Richmond boy born and reared, he was a whole-hearted supporter of our club, and looked forward eagerly to the time when he would once more don the uniform and do battle for his district, but it was not to be, and poor "Leggo" is now "sleeping the sleep of all time" "Somewhere in France." One of the many who have made the great sacrifice in the supreme cause of Empire, we will treasure his memory as one of the boys of the Richmond Football Club who did his duty nobly and fearlessly, and we tender our sincere sympathy to his family in their sad bereavement. Mr. Sid. Reeves has also lost his brother at the front during the past year, and Mr. H. Jones, R.C.C. representative on General Committee, also has to mourn the death of his eldest brother killed in action. To both of these gentlemen your Committee tender their sincere sympathy and condolence.

INCREASED MEMBERSHIP.

Your Committee are pleased to announce an addition of over 100 names to our members' roll during past season, and trust that the coming season will show a still further increase.

RICHMOND CARNIVAL IN AID OF BLIND SOLDIERS.

We are pleased to be able to record that the very successful issue of the above carnival was helped along by the splendid response of the members of the R.F.C. to the request of the Committee to assist in the sale of tickets, which resulted in nearly 1500 tickets being disposed of by the members. This is very satisfactory indeed, and the Committee desire to thank all those who assisted so efficiently.

DONATIONS TO PATRIOTIC AND CHARITABLE FUNDS.

Members will see on referring to Statement of Receipts and Expenditure that our contributions to above funds total nearly £250 for season 1917—37 per cent. of our gross revenue for the year. This gratifying result is, of course, mainly due to the, unselfish action of our players in playing for bare out-of-pocket expenses. Our training staff also helped greatly by their generous and hearty co-operation in the good cause at only half their usual rate of pay. To our players and trainers the Committee tender their hearty thanks for their great assistance in making our contribution to the Patriotic Funds one with which all members and supporters of the Richmond Football Club must feel gratified.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

At the last meeting of your Committee on March 12, 1918, Messrs. B. V. Herbert and P. H. Maybury were made Honorary Life Members of the R.R.C. Both of these gentlemen have done great service in the interests of our club. "Barney" Herbert has played in eight seasons, has been captain and vice-captain, and also has represented the players on the general committee for some time in the past. Percy Maybury also has played for eight years, has been a players' representative on the general committee for the last five years, was captain and honorary coach last season, and vice-captain and assistant hon. coach the previous season. The Committee feel assured that the members will agree that the honor conferred on both of these consistent players and good club-men has been worthily won and fully deserved. Our Honorary Life Members list and season of election is as follows:—J. Charles 1895, J. Eastman 1896, J. J. Stewart 1897, A. Elder 1898, J. H. Egan 1899, W. Malone 1900, W. I. Bicknell 1902, C. Backhouse 1904, A. McNair 1905, G. P. Beachcroft 1906, A. Edmonds 1908, A. A. Manzie 1909, C. Whittaker 1910, H. Slattery

1911, J. H. Archer 1912, W. A. Maybury 1912, A. Tietgens 1914, G. McIntosh 1915, J. H. James 1915, R. T. Kelly 1916, W. H. Lohse 1916, B. V. Herbert 1917, P. H. Maybury 1917.

THANKS TO DONORS.

Your Committee desire to place on record their grateful appreciation of the great assistance rendered to the club by those gentlemen who forwarded donations as per list appended, also to Mr. Branscombe (Bosisto and Co.) for the firm's splendid donation of the celebrated "Parrot Brand" of eucalyptus oil for training purposes during the whole of the season, one of the most highly prized and appreciated donations in our club's career; also a donation that has been coming along every season for more than 20 years past. Thanks are also due to Mr. F. R. Murray for his gift of "Mascotte" belts to the team in the match against Collingwood, when we made a "draw" of it. Mr. A. Wood, one of our vice-presidents, helped us greatly by providing a prize of 10/6 for the best player in every match played on our own ground during the season, and the Committee desire to thank Mr. Wood heartily for his sportsmanlike generosity. We also thank Messrs. J. Kenny (vice-president), H. R. Palling (Mayor of Richmond), J. H. Archer, who also provided prizes for the best player in other matches. In all of these contests the players decided the matter themselves by ballot, and the voting was as keen as the interest taken in the result.

LIST OF DONATIONS.

Mr. A. Asher	£2	2	0	Mr. E. H. King	1	1	0
„ J. Kenny	2	2	0	„ D. Donnelly	1	1	0
„ F. G. Tudor	2	2	0	„ T. Keen	1	1	0
Dr. Rosenberg	2	2	0	„ J. F. Turner	1	1	0
Mr. A. Tietgens	2	2	0	„ M. Cronin	1	1	0
„ J. Barry	1	1	0	„ H. B. Taylor	1	1	0
"Dimmey's" Stores	1	1	0	„ J. A. Johnson	0	10	6
Dr. P. M. Reid	1	1	0	Head and Co.	0	10	6
Mr. W. Roger	1	1	0	Mr. G. Newlands	0	10	6
„ T. M. Hodges	1	1	0	„ J. Garside	0	10	0
„ A Witchell	1	1	0	„ H. Slattery	0	10	0
„ W. I. Bicknell	1	1	0	„ C. R. Boston	0	10	0
„ E. J. Cotter	1	1	0	„ J. Hyams	0	10	0
„ D. Henry	1	1	0				
				Total	£29	16	6

TRAINING PRIZES.

As constant training is essential to good football, the following names of those gentlemen who contributed prizes with the object of encouraging regular attendance on training nights will no doubt be of interest to the members and supporters generally:—Mr. P. D. Scriven, trophy; Mr. F. Dowling, pair best boots; Mr. J. H. Broughton, trophy value 21/-; Councillor H. R. Palling, Mayor of Richmond, trophy value 21/-; Mr. J. R. Molyneux, gold medal; Mr. F. S. Smyth, trophy value 21/-. The Committee desire to thank each of the above donors of prizes for their kindness in assisting to make the training nights' tally of attendance very substantial. The following is the list of allotted prizes:—

Mr. P. D. Scriven's	prize,	won	by	V. Thorp
Mr. F. Dowling's	„	„	„	P. Maybury
Mr. J. H. Broughton's	„	„	„	S. Reeves
Mr. H. R. Palling's	„	„	„	R. Taylor
Mr. J. R. Molyneux's	„	„	„	C. Fehring
Mr. F. S. Smyth's	„	„	„	R. Stewart
R.F. Club's	„	„	„	W. Briscoe

LEAGUE FINALS—COLLINGWOOD PREMIERS, SEASON 1917.

We tender our hearty congratulations to our next-door neighbors, the redoubtable "Magpies," on winning the Premiership Caps and Pennant for Season 1917. The "Finals" resulted in a splendidly contested series of games and a "Grand Final" had to be played before the issue was decided. The public interest in these contests was far greater than in the previous year, as shown by the takings, £2000 odd in 1917, against £1200 odd in 1916, and the attendance was 82,000 for 1917, compared with 58,000 for 1916.

THANKS FOR SERVICES RENDERED DURING SEASON.

The Committee value very highly the services given to the club during the season by the following gentlemen, all in an honorary capacity:—Mr. W. Driver, first aid; Mr. W. Tuck, assistant trainer; Mr. W. I. Bicknell, press correspondent; Mr. W. Baker. timekeeper—and thank them heartily. Our training-room staff, under the supervision of Mr. J. Stokesbury, all worked like Trojans in the interests of the team; to Messrs. M. Noble, J. Watson, A. and G. Rainford (trainers), D. Bauld (doorkeeper), and F. Voight (boot studder), we convey likewise our appreciation of their good work in the club's interests. And to our head trainer, Mr. J. Stokesbury, who directed all the work of the training-room and spared neither time nor effort in order to help along the fortunes of our Club, the Committee desire to convey a special line of appreciative thanks.

PLAYERS WHO PLAYED IN PREMIERSHIP MATCHES DURING SEASON 1917 AND NUMBER OF MATCHES THEY PLAYED.

Rudd 10, Thorp 15, Bettles 10, Burke 10, Reeves 14, Shand 12, Hede 12, Maybury 10, Cronk 5, Heath 3, Bayliss 1, Sheehan 4, Richardson 8, Alessio 12, Hislop 12, Herbert 15, Ericksen 1, Hall 13, Gleeson 11, Harley 1, Hood 3, Taylor 13, Fehring 11, Keggin 7, Stewart 11, Briscoe 11, Godfrey 4, Don 5, Davey 4, Weatherill 6, Fox 3, Albress 5, Bowtell 1, Spicer 1, Moffatt 4, Smith 2.

F. G. TUDOR, President.

D. HENRY, Vice-President, Chairman of Committee.

W. A. MAYBURY, Hon. Secretary.

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NOTICE TO PLAYERS.

Training for Season 1918 will start on Tuesday, April 2, at 4.30 p.m., at Richmond Cricket Ground, and thenceforward on each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE-BEARERS, 1918

(All Unopposed).

President—F. G. Tudor, Esq., M.H.R.

Vice-Presidents (6)—Messrs. E. J. Cotter, M.L.A., D. Henry, J. Kenny, H. R. Palling (Mayor of Richmond), A. Tietgens, A. Wood.

Committee (7)—Messrs. A. Aarons, J. Cook, T. Delaney, R. T. Kelly, E. H. King, G. McIntosh, W. G. Robertson.

Players' Representatives—Messrs. A. Bettles, P. H. Maybury, S. W. Reeves.

Hon. Treasurer—Mr. J. H. Archer.

Hon. Secretary—Mr. W. A. Maybury,
"Shandon," 8 Union Street, Richmond.
Telephone—Central 3724.

The Season at a Glance—Results of Matches for Season 1917

Date.	Richmond versus	For G.	For B.	For Pts.	Against G.	Against B.	Against Pts.	Goal-Kickers.	Where Played	Gate Receipts
May 12	Collingwood	4	5	29	11	11	77	Herbert 2, Hislop, Rudd	C'wood	£17 8 6
„ 19	South Melb.	6	16	52	8	16	64	Herbert 2, Alessio 2, Keggin 2.	Rich'd	26 14 11
„ 26	Geelong	14	6	90	6	16	52	Keggin 4, Hood 2, Alessio 2, Taylor 2, Hall, Briscoe, Hislop, Herbert.	Rich'd	16 1 1
June 4	Fitzroy	5	8	38	6	13	49	Fehring 3, Alessio, Briscoe.	Fitzroy	26 10 6
„ 9	Carlton	7	11	53	14	13	97	Fehring 3, Don 2, Hall, Alessio.	Carlton	24 6 0
„ 16	Collingwood	7	8	50	6	14	50	Herbert 3, Fehring 2, Don, Keggin	Rich'd	25 5 3
„ 23	South Melb.	6	3	39	9	17	71	Briscoe 2, Keggin, Rudd, Alessio, Fehring	S. Melb.	20 19 1
„ 30	Geelong	5	4	34	11	15	81	Maybury 2, Hislop, Herbert, Keggin	Geelong	7 10 11
July 7	Fitzroy	13	9	87	5	8	38	Fehring 4, Herbert 3, Hall, Taylor, Maybury, Shand, Weatherill, Davey.	Rich'd	17 17 1
„ 14	Carlton	6	10	46	7	9	51	Taylor 2, Rudd, Maybury, Fehring, Alessio	Rich'd	24 8 0
„ 21	Collingwood	7	7	49	11	19	85	Albress 2, Weatherill, Rudd, Bowtell, Alessio, Hall	C'wood	14 18 4
„ 28	South Melb.	5	11	41	7	14	56	Weatherill 2, Hall 2, Spicer	Rich'd	24 10 10
Aug. 11	Geelong	5	12	42	7	8	50	Moffatt, Weatherill, Hall, Albress, Shand	Rich'd	5 19 11
„ 18	Fitzroy	10	11	71	7	11	53	Albress 3, Richardson 2, Smith 2, Hall 2, Alessio	Rich'd	11 3 0
„ 25	Carlton	4	17	41	12	8	80	Smith, Alessio, Moffatt, Taylor.	Carlton	18 11 10
									Practice Matches	8 5 4
		104	138	762	127	192	954			£290 9 9

Fehring 14, Herbert 12, Alessio 11, Keggin 9, Hall 9, Taylor 6, Albress 6. Weatherill 5, Rudd 4, Maybury 4, Briscoe 4
Hislop 3, Don 3, Smith 3, Moffatt 2, Hood 2, Richardson 2, Shand 2, Davey 1, Bowtell 1, Spicer 1.

Matches Played—15. Won 3. Lost 11. Drawn 1.